MORPHOLOGICAL AND MORPHOMETRIC STUDY OF *SUBULURA* SP. (NEMATODA: SUBULUROIDEA) PARASITE OF *CROTOPHAGA ANI* IN THE STATE OF MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL

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Currently, approximately 60 species of the genus *Subulura* Molin, 1860 are known to parasitize birds, mammals and, rarely, reptiles worldwide. These parasites are poorly documented in Brazil, with many species described in the early 20th century and few records over the years. This implies the need for redescription works that can complement the original descriptions. Thus, the objective of this study was to expand and update knowledge about parasitic nematodes, with emphasis on the genus *Subulura*, through morphological studies. Fifteen specimens of the genus *Subulura* parasites of *Crotophaga ani*, coming from the Centro de Triagem de Animais Silvestres (CETAS) in the city of Juiz de Fora (Minas Gerais, Brazil), were studied. The parasites are deposited in the helminthological collection of the Laboratório de Taxonomia e Ecologia de Helmintos Odile Bain (CHOB), of the Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora (UFJF). For identification, the specimens were removed from 70% alcohol to mount semi-permanent slides and analyzed using bright-field microscopy, as well as morphometry. Based on a literature review and a taxonomic key developed in this study, the characters used for morphological identification were length, width, number of buccal lobes, tail length, esophagus length, tail/body ratio, size of the buccal capsule in males and females, size of the spicule, spicule ratio, number of caudal papillae, size of the pre-cloacal sucker, distance from the sucker to the end of the tail and size of the gubernaculum in males and size of the eggs. As a result, it was expected to update the taxonomic status of the species based on the proposed analyses and to perform the morphological characterization. However, the morphological characters obtained were inconclusive for an existing species, indicating a possible new species. Therefore, further studies are being carried out for a correct identification of the species.

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